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THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 25, 1850.

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THE MOTHER-IN-LAW.

A STORY OF THE ISLAND ESTATE. BY MRS. EMMA D. E. SOUTHWORTH.

XIX-CONTINUED. The fire light, flaring up upon the face of Su-

san Somerville, showed the features contracted with suffering. She gozed at Anna with a confused and half-conscious expression of countenance. "Shall I assist you to arrange your dress, Miss

Somerville ?" "Oh! Anna, tell them that I am fatigued-

"In that case, dear lady, your room would be filled by officious and inquiring people-better try to go down."

"Yes! I had! But, oh Anna! if you knew!" " My dear and honored mistress, I do know! I know all!" said Anna, kneeling at her feet, and taking and pressing and kissing both her hands. Susan dropped her head upon the bosom of Anna, and wept freely-long and freely. These were the first tears she had shed, and they relieved her of course. Still Anna, kneeling at her feet with the attitude and tones of deepest respect and warmest sympathy, still caressing her hands,

spoke, gently, as follows-"He is not worthy of you, Miss Somerville! Oh, believe it ! Believe the instincts of affection Oh, believe it! Believe the instincts of affection that assure me when I tell you he is not worthy of you—not wise and strong enough for you. And I would rather see you weep here, than be the wife of one not fitted to retain your esteem, wife of one not fitted to retain your esteem, though that man were master of the Isle of Rays. And I, Miss Somerville-I, poor Anna Woodwould rather be the isolated being that I am, cut off by education from one class and by position from the other-I would rather be myself, with my full heart and brain, capable of deeply loving, profoundly thinking, and greatly suffering-than be that poor, little bride down stairs, with her brilliant position and her famished heart and head. Yes! weep! Grief breaks up the soil of the heart, and tears water and fertilize it. You will have a rich

race and color live more through their affections than through their intellects-I know that I shall you now, Miss Somerville, and quite alone when you shall be married, as you will be in a few years. Well! I shall pass through life alone! I am not therefore unhappy! I devote myself to somebody's interests, to some worthy object-and I live! Ah! Miss Somerville, I feel that my

words only annoy you now! that you would prefer silence to all this talk. No matter! you will think of my words hereafter; and for the silence you will have it at last. But now, Miss Somerville, a duty lies before you-a duty that you owe to yourself. You must rouse yourself and go below. For days, weeks perhaps, you must mingle with this gay wedding party; and then we will go home-to our quiet home at the Crags-where we will have profound peace and old books-the company of our 'brave unfortunates'-the heroes

company of our 'brave unfortunates'—the heroes and looked keenly at Louise. She only saw the and martyrs of the past, whose example will lend hitherto pale girl with her eyes bright as stars us strength to endure our own trials. Come, Miss Susan! let me arrange your hair!" Miss Somerville, calmed by her fit of weepingconsoled, too, by the delicate attachment of Anna-

suffered her hair to be re-dressed, and her muslin robe to be re-arranged, and then descended the stairs to the saloon.

Lion, met her at the door. "You are so pale! Are you ill, Susan?" inquired Zoe, with interest.

This question drew the close attention of the whole group upon Miss Somerville. "Are you not well?" abruptly inquired Ger-

"I perceive that Miss Somerville has taken cold, as I thought she would," remarked Britannia, drawing Susan's arm within her own, and

"My dear Mrs. Stuart-Gordon you will do me a pleasure if you will invite Miss O'Riley to accompany you to the Isle of Rays when we return," said General Stuart-Gordon to his daughter-in-law, as his eyes followed admiringly the elegant form and radiant face of Brighty through

"Oh, thank you! I will do so with great pleasure! I had even wished to ask your permission to do so!" exclaimed Louise, her usually downcast eyes now raised and sparkling.

" My permission !" smiled the General, pleased at her happy acquiescence and amused at her girlish humility. "My permission! my dear Mrs. Stuart-Gordon!" he said, playfully, emphasising her new name and title. "Get accustomed to your new dignity as a housekeeper, and invite your own company, and select your own society, without dreaming that I shall interfere!"

At this moment, Brutus Lion, coming forward with a grave bow, solicited the hand of the bride for the first quadrille, and led her off to the head

"Take Susan, and bring her to make up

set," whispered the bride. And in two minutes more Louis stood opposite to them, with Susan Somerville by his side, and

her hand clasped within his own. The music now broke forth in peals of joy, but failed to drown the noise of the tempest, which

had revived in all its fury. The raging of the storm, the terrible state of the roads, and the pitch darkness of the sky, pre-

vented the return home that night of any of the wedding guests.

XX. THE REVELLERS.

Ring Joyous chords! But who art thou,
With the shadowy ideks over thy pale young brow,
And the world of dreamy gloom that lies
in the misty depths of thy soft dark eyes?
Thou hast loved, fair girl; thou hast loved too well;
Thou art macraing now over a broken spell;
Thou hast pourel thy heart's rich treasures forth,
And art unregaid for their priceless worth.
Mourn on; yet come not here the while,
It is but a pain to see the smile;
There is not a tone in our sone for thee—
Home, with thy sorrows, fice!—Heman.

Mrs. Arms rong rang her bell at an early hou he next morning. Kate Jumper answered it. Let Miss O'Riley know that I shall be pleased to see her alone here, at her earliest convenience,"

Kate Jumper handed her mistress her dressing gown, and disappeared to obey her orders.

She returned in an instant to say, that Miss O'Riley would wait on Mrs. Armstrong in half an hour. And, by the time the stately toilet of the dowager was completed, Britannia rapped for

Britannia, in an elegant morning dress of darkblue satin, with black lace falls-Brighty always made 'un grand toilette' when she expected to encounter pride and arrogance in others -- so Brighty presented herse f, making her morning salutation with easy dignity.

"You may retire, Kate. I sent for you, Miss O'Riley, to say, that after to-day, as your semices to Miss Armstrong-or, rather, to Mrs. Stuart-Gordon-will no longer be required, your further stay at Mont Crystal can be dispensed with. I ware that you are engaged by the year, and that four or five months remain. Will you draw that writing-desk towards me?"

"If you will excuse me, no, Mrs. Armstrong." "No part of your service, ch! Well, truly, 1 hired you as a governess, not a waiting-maid, and servants of all grades are great sticklers for

"Excuse me again, Mrs. Armstrong, but the

desk is in your reach, and out of mine; besides, I fancy you are stronger in the arms than myself. However "-and Brighty, by a second and better impulse, took hold of the desk, and wheeled it be-"I was about to say, Miss O'Riley," said the

lady, unlocking the desk, and taking from it a roll of bank-notes, "that for these four or five months I am willing to pay you a half-year's salary." And she tendered Britannia the money. Brighty waved it back :

"No. Mrs. Armstrong I cannot accept a dollar beyond the amount of my salary up to this day I shall leave your house to morrow." And, courtesying, Britannia withdrew from the room.

In truth, the prospects of Britannia were not cheering. She would have died rather than have accepted one dollar beyond her salary up to the date of her dismissal, or have remained another day at Mont Crystal.

Brighty was no heroine; and you are not to expect any of the heroic virtues to be manifested in her character or conduct; so she walked about

the floor, communing with herself, as follows: "Well, well, what am I to do? I might have saved three or four hundred dollars if I had been economical, and worn calico dresses and horn combs; or, being extravagant as I have been, I might have still remained here, if I had submitted to Mrs. Armstrong's arrogance. Oh, Brighty, Brighty, see what you have done by being vain, extravagant, and ill-tempered! Economy is so commendable, and meekness is so charming, and I commendable, and meckness is so charming, and I heart—for hearts grow rich by suffering! At least so it seems to me! You will have a rich heart—a rich mind, perhaps! There is compensation in most things. No tear ever fell, no pang was ever wrung in vain! Those who have spent a life of tears and pains must find consolation somewhere! Oh, believe this! if you pretend to believe in the justice and mercy of God! I, Miss Somerville, with all my cravings after a full life myself governess to had a dozen double-chinned, myself governess to had a dozen double-chinned.

short-nosed girls and boys, who munch raw turnips in school, and whose mother cuts out her own cloth clothes, and cowhides her own maids. Oh, Britannia, Britannia, see what you have done for yourself by your regal alta! And then you must refuse General Stuart-Gordon! Was there ever such an egregious fool as Britannia O'Riley?" And Brighty thought gratefully and remorsefully of General Stuart-Gordon.

"He is fond of me, at any rate! and after all, is it

as actively loving ?" said Brighty, smoothing her ringlets and adjusting her dress. "Brighty!" said the bride the same morning.

there is one great privilege in having a home of "You have always had such a home, my love." "In being mistress of a home, then!" "And such a splendid home, Louise!"

"It is that one may share it with their best friends!" exclaimed the bride, throwing herself in Brighty's arms. "Oh, Brighty ! come home with me, and be my sister, until you are married your-

Brighty slightly started at the last supposition and her lips apart and dewy with happiness and Brighty smiled in her eyes and caressed

a most unreasonable request of yours!"
"Why, Brighty?" exclaimed the bride, in as-

"Why, yes, love! Think of it! You and Louis would be the most insupportable hosts on earth for the next month or two! Think of it! A month with a newly-married bride and groom! I should expire of ennui!" and, laughing, Brighty hurried away to escape her farther importunity.

Then, hastening back with a sudden impulse.

she caressed her—
"My sweet Louise, I am grateful for all your love and goodness, indeed I am! But I cannot accept it, Louise! It is not expedient that I "Oh, Brighty, if you would be persuaded, I

should be so happy!"

"You will be happy, Louise! you are happy! and I am so glad to witness it. There is Louis! Go meet him!" and Brighty, disengaging herself from the embrace of Louise, bastened away—hastened away from the breakfast room, where this conversation took place-to the saloon, in which

Here she encountered General Stuart-Gordon who, taking both her hands, and pressing them, looked with a penetrating gaze in her eyes, and began to say— Brighty!"——

"I permit no one but the young girls of my sequaintance to address me so familiarly, General Stuart-Gordon!" said Brighty, trying to with draw her hands, and to repress the smile that would gleam out from under her long eyelashes, and flutter in the corners of her lips.

"Au revoir, young lady," said the mature lover, gayly, squeezing both her hands until the jewelled rings upon them dented his fat hands, and, bowing ceremoniously, he let her pass.

General Stuart-Gordon had caught a glimpse of that repressed but gleaming smile, and it was wonderful the effect! wonderful how lightly stepped about that heavy man! how gayly smiled and talked that grayman!—until several matrons and talked that grave man !-until several matrons in the saloon, wishing to compliment him, said-

"The marriage of your son restores your youth, General Stuart-Gordon!" A piece of information with which the ungrate-ful General did not seem to be particularly de-

"This popular idea of growing old is an illu-font." he said. "Age, is a movable " A movable fast rather, General," replied the

General Stuart-Gordon smiled, bowed, and passed out to seek his daughter-in-law, of he was beginning to grow very fond.

Britannia had hurried off to the bevy of girls whom she loved well enough to permit to call her

Gertrude Lion, Zoe Dove, and Susan Somer ville, were grouped upon their favorite crimson soft in the recess of the bow window at the farwas doing the honors of her house to a group of elderly ladies assembled in the front of the room. elderly ladies assembled in the front of the room.

At this moment, Louise entered, leaning on the arm of her father-in-law, and looking so beautiful with her slightly heightened color, her radiant blue eyes, and her fair complexion and petit figure set off to the best advantages by the pale blue silk of her morning dress.

Mrs Armstrong, seeing her blithe countenance, grew black in the face, and muttered to herself—

"This it is to have a fickle and ungrateful child! Already she rejoices in the near prospect of leaving her mother's house for the full liberty of her husband's 17

is rather topsy-turvy, and that the old garden has more rocks, brambles, and suskes, in it than flow-ers, fruits, or birds; but then our horses are the finest in the country, and our dogs equal them," said the Ger-falcon, with a blending of rudeness, arrogance, and courtesy, that was very strange.

Britannia O'Riley bowed courteously, but, before she could decline this invitation, Zoe Dove caught her hand, and exclaimed, quite breath-

"No, no! no, no! Come to the Dovecote Brighty. The housekeeping there is first este. You shall have my little chamber; I have just made a nice blue and white quilt for the bed; and I will sleep on a pallet in father's room." Britanuia took her hand and pressed it affec-

onately, and then said-"I thank you both very sincerely, dear girls. But, as yet, my future is all undetermined," and the tears swam in Brighty's eyes, as much from a sense of wounded pride in the thought that her homeless condition had moved the sympathy of Stuart-Gordon as one who could deliver her from all such mortifications in the present, and protect heart warmed towards him with the grateful but unimpassioned affection that the young-loved

sometimes feel for the sged-loving.
Susan Somerville had remained silent; but as soon as she got an opportunity of speaking to Brighty unobserved, she said— Will you come to my room as soon as you can

Miss O'Riley ?" "I will attend you there now if you please," said Brighty.

And the girls rose and sought the apartment of

Miss Somerville. As soon as they were seated by the quiet, little wood fire, Susan again passing her hand over her brow, like one who tries to dissipate a pertina-cious and intensely concentrated idea, said slow-ly, and in a broken voice—still like one trying unsuccessfully to break the bendage of an over-mastering thought, and give attention to the sub-

"Britannia, after these-these wedding festivities are over, come with me to the Crags. It is ing the war, that the territory to be conquered wild, blasted—not nice now—but it will be better south of 36° 30' would be a slave region. Before in the spring!' and, without waiting for an answer, Susan relapsed again into thought, forget-ting that she had given the invitation.

Brighty had penetrated her secret. She gazed on that pale and altered brow, those wasted cheeks

and hollow eyes—eyes grown twice their natural size through dilation of their pupils—and the emaciation of the face—upon that collapsed and slaves. From the first mention of the Proviso, tne tears that suffused her eyes. Not for the world, by any betrayal of her own sympathy, would she have violated the sanctuary of her friend's sacred delicacy. Recovering her own composure, she returned to Susan, and, by way of arousing her, took her hand, and said cheerfally—

ding festivities in the country parts of Maryland and Virginia are conducted on quite a different plan to that adopted in fashionable city circles. The honey-moon, usually passed in solitude by fashionable city bride and groom, is here spent in a round of dinner parties, balls, &c. It is an oc-casion of merry-making that quiet country people

ost extent continual whirl of dissipation for five weeks, which brought April before they were finally set-tled in their beautiful bome of The Isle of Rays.

END OF BOOK FIRST.

LETTER TO HON. WILLIAM J. NELSON, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

New York, February 11, 1850. My DEAR SIR: As one of your immediate constituents, permit me to express to you my views on the resolutions lately submitted to the Senate by Mr. Clay. They are skilfully drawn, and their true import seems to me to be generally mis-understood, and in many instances intentionally misrepresented. Various considerations combine to render these resolutions acceptable to that class of our Northern politicians, who are anxious to be popular at home, without forfeiting their share of the patronage which is dispensed at Washington by the Slave Power. The resolutions are eight in number, and I will examine them in their order.

1. This proposes the admission of California as a State, without the imposition by Congress of any restriction on the subject of Slavery, and "with suitable boundaries." These words imply that the present boundaries are unsuitable, and to the true reason for this reservation about hour daries, and respecting which the resolution silent. During the war, and before the cession of any territory, the House of Representatives passed the Wilmot Proviso, prohibiting Slavery passed the Williot Fronts, passed the Williot Fronts, passed in all the Territory that might be acquired. On this, the South, with one voice, declared that they would not submit to the exclusion of slavery south that they would not recognise "any enactment of the Federal Government which has for its object the prohibition of slavery in any territory to be acquired by conquest or treaty, south of the line of the Missouri Compromise." At a public meeting in Charleston, and at which I believe Mr. Calhoun was present, it was resolved that it would be debasing and dishonorable to submit to the prohibition of slavery "beyond what is already yielded by the Missouri Compromise," and in-numerable have been the offers and efforts of Southern politicians to extend the Compromise line to the Pacific. Hence it is not the exclusion that offends the South; and to admit this Anti-Slavery State, bounded on the south by 360 30, sented should be done, and is in no sense a compromise. But the free State of California extends south of this line, and hence her southern boundary is unsuitable, and hence Mr. Clay's resolution makes a tacit provision for depriving the State of so much of her territory as his Southern relation to this very resolution, "I see no objection to admitting all California above the line of 36° 30' into the Union, provided another new slave State be laid off within the present limits of Texas." To this laying off another new slave State, Mr. Clay's compromise opposes no obsta-cle! Had Mr. Clay proposed the admission of California with "its present boundaries," his offer would so far have been a compromise as to concede something to freedom, as a consideration

2. The next resolution declares that "as slaery does not exist by law, and is not likely to be introduced" into any of the conquered territories, they should be organized under Territorial Governments, without any restriction on the subject or the slavery. The proposed assertion by Congress made. We have official information, communicated by General Jackson to Congress, that the audiful ries, is hailed as an all-sufficient baim to the consciences of those who receil with horror at the sciences of those who receil with the same republic, at first determined to include California, and beyond all question they had then as met right to San Francisco as they now have to Santa Fe. The proposition of Mr. Clay is therefore to pay Texas for territory to which he admits a he has no title, and then to throw open the territory so purchased to the slaveholders. In this, I can see no concession to the North.

5 Congress is to declare it inexpedient to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, except with the assent of Maryland and the people of the District of Columbia, except with the assent of Maryland and the people of the District of Columbia, scept as the made. We have o of leaving her mother's house for the full liberty of her husband's !"

Mrs. Armstrong, in her blind pride and jealousy, failed to reflect that she herself had left to others the task of cultivating the affections of her in New York, but still it exists, because it is not in this, I can see no concession to the North.

5. Congress is to declare it inexpedient to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, except themselves the inference, that because slavery in the District of Maryland and the people of the North will draw for the slavery in the District of Columbia, except does not exist by law, therefore it is prohibited by law. Property in elephants does not exist by law the District, and making compensation to the others the task of cultivating the affections of her

General Stuart-Gordon, as in the warm and earnest affection of Louis.

"What are you going to do, Brighty?" inquired the girls as Britannia took her seat with them.

"I do not know, indeed! I have decided on nothing as yet," said Brighty, growing serious in spite of herself.

Susan Somerville had not joined in the inquiry, but now she looked up with interest upon the sobered face of Brighty, and, passing her hand once or twice across her own pale and troubled brow, fell into thought.

"Miss O'Riley, Brutus and myself would be very happy to have you pass some months with us at the Lair. It is true that the housekeeping is rather topsy-turvy, and that the old garden has more rocks, brambles, and snakes, in it than flowin Mr. Clay's compromise contravence this legal theory, or prevents its reduction to practice. Slavery did once exist by law in these Territories. Why does it not now? Mr. Clay answers the question by telling us that Mexican law abolished it. Now, he perfectly well knows that the Mexican law not only abolished but prohibited slavery. Union has exercised its power to prohibit the introduction of slaves as merchandise." The power is the law was revived, and slavery does now exist to have a law as the law was not republic. I object not to the abolition of the trade, since it will remove one of the many abominations with which slavery has disgraced the seat of our National Government; but I deny that the proposition involves the slightest concession on the part of the slaveholders. Says Mr. Clay himself, "almost every slaveholding State in the Clay have all law was repealed by the conquest, then the law was revived, and slavery does now exist to the abolition of the trade, since it will remove one of the many abominations with which slavery has disgraced the seat of our National Government; but I deny that the proposition involves the slightest concession on the part of the slaveholders. Says Mr. Clay himself, "almost every slaveholding State in the troduction of slaves as merchandise." The power is exercised or not, according to convenience, and it is thought most profit to the trade, since it will remove one of the many abominations with which slavery has disgraced the seat of our National Government; but I deny that the proposition involves the slightest concession on the part of the slaveholders. Says Mr. Clay himself, "almost every slaveholding State in the proposition involves the slightest concession on the part of the slaveholders. Says Mr. Clay himself, "almost every slaveholding State in the probability of the concession of the proposition involves the slightest concession on the part of the slaveholders. Says Mr. Clay himself, "almost every slaveholding State in the probability of the concession of the p

ist by law. If the law was not repealed by the conquest, then the law is still in force and siavery is now prohibited by law. Why, then, does not Mr. Clay fairly and honestly declare that slavery is now prohibited by law? Because this would inease to Northern consciences, for allaying all irridad by law? deed be a compromise, and would render the Proviso nugatory, and would secure the Territories from the curse of slavery. The very omission of such a declaration implies a denial of an existing and throws open to the slavet of the Missouri line. But to reconcile the North
to this total surrender, they are to be favored by
Congress with an opinion that it is not likely that
slavery will be introduced into any part of the conquered territory. What is only improbable, is at
least possible, and hence this legislative opinion
that there is no legal prohibition to the introduction
of slavery. It is not reconcile the introduction
of slavery. It is not reconcile the north of this Union." That I may not be accused of injustice to Mr. Clay in my subsequent remarks, I
will quote from his speech on this point: "I do
not say, sir, that a private individual is obliged to
make the tour of his whole State, in order to assist the owner of a slave to recover his property;
but I do say, if he is present when the owner of a
slave is about to assert his rights and regain possession of his property, that he conthat there is no legal prohibition to the introduction.

the opinion to have been erroneous, will it be any consolation to the North for having, by their act, blighted immense regions with human bondage, that they had been fooled by an opinion? Mr. Downs of Louisiana, in reply to Mr. Clay, assert-ed that there were already in the Territories "some four or five hundred slaves;" and another member declared that there would now have been plenty of slaves there, had not their masters been reet in his opinion, the slaveholders have been strangely mistaken. It was openly avowed durour army entered the city of Mexico, we were offered all Texas proper, and the whole of New Mexico and California north of thirty-seven degrees—an extent of territory equal to nine States of the size of New York. The offer was

kind invitation very gladly."

"It is a dreary waste, a bleak, desolate scene, Brighty, but it has the advantage of healthful.

Brighty, but it has the advantage of healthful. disunion and civil war for a privilege she "is r likely" to exercise?

Upon what does Mr. Clay rest his strange, un-natural opinion? Almost exclusively on the ex-clusion of slavery from the Californion Constitution. He does not pretend that this exclusion wa owing to the unfitness of the soil and climate for discovery of gold suddenly collected in California a large Northern population, naturally averse to slavery, and jealous of the competition of slave labor, in digging gold. But does gold exist in Deseret or New Mexico? Or is there a large Northern population in California south of 36° 30°? Is it logical to infer that slavery is not likely to be introduced into these Territories even with the sanction of Congress, because under totally different circumstances it has been ex-cluded from California? New Mexico is separated by an imaginary line from Texas, and about half of it is claimed by that slave State. Is it likely that Texan slaveholders will not cross the

line with their property, or occupy territory they claim as their own? The settlers in Deseret have formed a Constitution virtually allowing slavery, by not prohibit-ing it. The gold-diggers in California are concentrated far north of 36° 30'; the city of San Francisco is also north of that line, while south of it is a large area, where there is little to ob-struct the introduction of slavery. Under these circumstances, there are probably very few men in Congress who would dare, on their oaths, to affirm the opinion expressed by Mr. Clay. That opinion is at best a calculation of chances; a cal-culation on which no man would hazard a thousand dollars; yet this miserable calculation is offered to the North as a compensation for the surrender of all the political and moral blessings

which the Proviso would secure.

Mr. Clay utterly demolishes Gen. Cass's argument against the constitutionality of the Proviso, and affirms most positively the right of Congress to prohibit slavery in the territories. But ho stands the question of duty and moral consistency between these two gentlemen? Undeniably in favor of the General. He has not, indeed, under-taken to solve the nice and difficult question whether human bondage is a curse or a blessing He is sensibly alive to the atrocity of flogging two or three Hungarian women, but makes no comment on laws which subject thousands of nation to express its indignation, at the execuarms in their hands, but gives no opinion how far it would be right or wrong to shoot certain of his own countrymen, if taken in revolt against worse than Austrian oppression. But he contends that whatever may be the moral character of slavery, Congress has no constitutional right to prohibit it, and therefore ought not to prohibit it. On the other hand, Mr. Clay frankly declares that slavery is wrong, "a grievous wrong," that to propagate slavery is to propagate waons. He affirms the constitutional power of Congress to prohibit this propagation of wrong, and then calls upon Congress to permit slaveholders to propagate this whole wide extent of our conquered territory, with the single exception of what may be inclu-ded within the State of California. Before God and man, Gen. Case's conclusion from his premise

Clay from his premises is condemned as hostile to morality and humanity. THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH, AND SIXTH RESOLUTIONS. 3. This resolution merely gives to Texas more territory than she is entitled to, and less than sh mande, and is so far a compromise of territorial claims; but in no degree a compromise between the friends and enemies of human rights, since what is to be taken from Texas is to be immedi

ately thrown open to the slaveholders.

4. Texas had, before annexation, pledged her duties on foreign commerce as security to certain creditors. These duties, by annexation, were surrendered to the United States. Mr. Clay proposes that the United States shall assume the debts due to these creditors, if Texas will relinquish her claims on New Mexico. If justice reuires the nation to assume these debts, their assumption ought not to depend on the cession of these debts, their payment by as will in fact be a gratuity to Texas for the relinquishment of one of the most impudent and fraudulent claims ever made. We have official information, communica-

ease to Northern consciences, for allaying all irri-tation, and for restoring a general healthful ac-tion throughout the present morbid system of the Confederacy! I will give the recipe in full:
"Resolved, that more effectual provision ought to
be made by law for the restitution and delivery
of persons bound to service or labor in any State, of slavery. It is not pretended that this opinion which Congress is to volunteer is to have any legal force whatsoever. But what, if time shall prove in this body to make penal laws to impose the heaviest sanctions upon the recovery of fugitive heaviest sanctions upon the recovery of fugitive

which our medical adviser proposes to administer it. He must not be surprised, should some diffi-

culty be experienced in compelling the patient to swallow the draught. Mr. Clay has long been a favorer of those field the grand idea of securing a national intercommunity in these sports, by means of international treaties. So early as the 19th June, 1826, as Secretary of State, he proposed to the British Government to throw the Canadas open for this sport, and in return, to British sportsmen should be accorded the privilege of hunting West India negroes, throughout the whole extent of the law of Parliament gave freedom to every slave who effected his landing on British ground."

About the same time, we requested from Mexworld, by any betrayal of her own sympathy, would she have violated the sanctuary of her friend's sacred delicacy. Recovering her own composure, she returned to Susan, and, by way of arousing her, took her hand, and said cheerfully—

"I thank you, dear Susan; and I accept your kind invitation very gladly."

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"It is a dreary waste, a bleak is the sacred favor was denied four waste dained for the more horrible. Should a Virginian come to New sacred from prohibition or obstruction by the Vock in search of his horse, and find him in the Federal Government for all time to come. The pary of twelve impartial men, drawn by lot, shall pass upon the conflicting claims. Neither party has any choice in selecting the jury, nor can either establish his claim by his own evidence. But if the Virginian is hunting a MAN, and sees one that will serve his purpose, and who will fetch a thousand dollars in the Southern market. but who claims to belong to himself, how is he to is he can, and without warrant may carry him before any justice of the peace whom for sufficient reasons he may think proper to select, and swear that the MAN he has caught is his, and the justice may surrender the MAN to perpetual bondage, degradation, and misery. Various efficers besides justices are authorzied to act, so that the Virginian has a wide choice. Surely this is hunting made easy by law, but it is not found so easy in practice. Latterly, various States have prohibited their own officers from assisting in the chase of human beings, and citizens rarely lend any unpaid assistance. Hence a new game law is deemed needful, and Mr. Clay, as we have seen, is pledged to go with "the farthest Southern Senator," the most devoted lover of the sport, to make it effectual. The Judiciary Committee have accordingly reported a bill, now before the Senate. "I agree," said Mr. Mason, one of the farthest Southern Senators, in his speech on this bill, (28th Jan.) "I agree that the Federal Government has no power to impose duties of any kind upon the officers of State Governments as such." Of course, the obligation

imposed by the law of 1793, upon justices of the ace and other State officers, to catch slaves, are oid, and our Northern Legislatures, it is admitted, have a right to prohibit them from participating in slave hunts. To obviate this difficulty, it becomes necessary to select other than State officers to adia dicate upon questions of higher import than any ever exercise the talents, learning, virtue, and independence, of the most august tribunals of any civilized country. And who are the grave and reverend judges appointed by this bill to sit in judgment on the liberty or bondage of native-born Americans? Among these judges are TWENTY HOUSAND POSTMASTERS! Each one of these new udges is authorized to adjudge any man, woman or child, black or white, to be a vendible chattel; and this judgment is to be founded on any proof that may be satisfactory to said postmaster in the words of the bill, "either by oral testimony or affidavit," nor is the testimony, either oral or by affidavit, of the interested claimant excluded; and from this judgment there is no appeal! Slavery is no longer confined to one color. The Southern papers abound with advertisements offering rewards for fugitive slaves, containing the caution, that the fogitive will probably attempt to pass

for a white person. for a white person.

A few years since a Maryland slaveholder caught in Philadelphia a white girl, (Mary Gilmore,) whom he claimed as his slave. The case was brought before a Pennsylvania judge, and ocmore,) whom he claimed as his slave. The case was brought before a Pennsylvania judge, and occupied two days, and it was proved by most abundant overwhelming evidence, that the alleged slave was the orphan daughter of roor laist raginal baspital, and the daughter had never been in Maryland. By a pending amendment to this bill, every man and woman who, prompted by the holiest impulses of our nature, shall "harbor or conceal" the prey from the hunter, is to be visited with fine and imprisonment. A few days after Mr. Clay introduced his resolutions, Bruen & Hill, slave traders in Alexandria, wrote a letter, since published at the newspapers, stating for the information of a free mother in New York, who wished to redeem her DAUGHTER from bondage, that they cannot afford to sell "the girl Emity for less than KIGHTEKN HUNDRED DOLLARS." Why this prodigious price? They add, "we have two this prodigious price? They add, "we have two or three offers for Emily from gentlemen from the outh. She is said to be the finest-looking woman in this country."

mother's house, not only is she to be carried back and subjected to the fate intended for her, but not now in issue.

But we are told that unless we yield to the de-

child. And indeed the heart of Louise was expanding as well under the paternal fondness of General Stuart-Gordon, as in the warm and earing our closets in search of prey. Should an attempt be made to enforce "the heaviest sanctions" for which Mr. Clay is ready to vote, he may be assured the prisons in New York and New England are too few to hold the vast multitude of gitive, or assisting in his capture. Mr. Clayvery kindly declines requiring "a private individual to make the tour of his whole State" in search of a slave, but he insists that all who were present when the game is started, ought to follow the hounds. Could he but enforce this obligation, we should have some grand turn-outs in New York and New England some like the one fancied by the

"Good luck to our hunters! how nobly they ride, In the glow of their zeal, and the strength of their pride The priest with his cassock flung back on the wind, Just acreening the politic statesman behind-The saint and the sinner, with cursing and prayer-The drunk and the sober ride merrily there. Oh! goodly and grand is our hunting to see, In this 'land of the brave and this home of the free! Right merrily hunting the black man whose sin So speed to their hunting o'er mountain and glen, Through cane-brake and forest-the hunter of men!"

aid in capturing the fugitive? the questionmut by the Apostles, when legully forbidden to teach in the name of Jesus, would then recur: "Whether it be right, in the sight of God, to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye." It is not merely the right, but the duty of a Christian to refuse an active chalicans to any and every law of man which he believes contravenes the comnands of his Maker; and then, like the Apostles, to offer no forcible resistance to the penalties at-tached to his disobedience.

cuity be experienced in compelling the patient to swallow the draught.

Mr. Clay may rest assured that the bill of sports in which the prey is MAN, and he has the merit, it is believed, of being the first to conceive the grand idea of securing a national intercompany to the grand idea of securing a national intercomp be accorded the privilege of hunting west india negroes, throughout the whole extent of the American Republic. But John Bull rejected the tendered reciprocity, and churlishly replied, "The tendered reciprocity, and churlishly replied, "The law of Parliament gave freedom to every slave law of Parliament gave freedom to every slave." home, think proper to visit that State, a prison is the only dwelling they are permitted to occupy; and should the State to which they belong send

stars and stripes shall forever protect each coast-ing vessel that shall be frieghted with human misery and despair, and manacled coffles shall, without molestation, be driven across the conti-nent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The slave trade in the District, that is, in one single market, Mr. Clay pronounces "detestable," and talks with horror of "the cortege's which pass along our avenues of manacled human beings." But why this sudden outburst of indignation against a lawful commerce? Is it dishonorable to sell merchandise? Has not Mr. Clay himself proclaimed "that is property which the law makes proper-ty?" Why does he discard the Washington man-merchants? Is it base to buy and sell huoan beings? Mr. Clay forgets that this "detestable trade" is, in fact, supported by the gentle-men breeders who sell and the gentlemen planters who buy. But this trade, which is so "detestable," and these cortegés, which are so horrible on a very little scale, are now to assume a nationa

importance, protected and sanctioned by the Gov-ernment of the whole Republic! Such, sir, is the magnanimous compromise which so many of our Whig and Democratic politicians, now that the elections are over, and the solemn pledges made in favor of the Wilmot Proviso supposed to be forgotten, are willing to accept as nighty boon to human rights, and a mighty bar rier against the further encroachments of the slave power. In my ears, the only language ad-dressed by these eight resolutions, to the North, is the cry of the horse-leech-give, give. No test can detect in them, no microscope can make visible can detect in them, no microscope can make visible the most minute concession to human liberty. Not one single inch of Territory does the proposed compromise secure from slavery, that is not already rescued from its power. Not one single human being will it save from bondage.

The extension of the Missouri line to the Pacific would at least have rendered all on the north

should be open on both sides an imaginary line of 360 30', than that slavery should be interdicted positively north of 36° 30', with freedom to admit or ex-clude it south of 36° 30', at the will of the people?" But, Mr. Clay exclaimed, "no earthly power could induce me to vote for the positive introduc-tion of slavery south or north of that line," and at this heroic avowal the galleries applauded. But the galleries are not deeply versed in Southern tactics. Mr. Clay need apprehend no coercion to extort his reluctant vote for a purpose no one desires or demands. The South have, with one voice, denied the power of Congress either to prohibit or establish slavery in the Territories. Said Mr. King of Alabama, in reply, "we ask no set of Congress to carry slavery anywhere. no act of Congress to carry slavery anywhere. I believe we (Congress) have just as much right to prohibit slavery in the Territories, as to carry it there. We have no right to do one or the other." Other Southern Senators avowed their concur-rence in the doctrine advanced by Mr. King.

in Congress, should be averse to a proposition that offers them all they have ever asked, and all that Congress can give them, with the exception of the suppression of the right of petition, and the censorship of the Post Office; and these are

mands of the slaveholders, they will dissolve the Union. And what are these demands, which Mr. Clay admits we have full right to refuse ? thousand times rather would you see the partner of your bosom enduring Mr. Clay's "heavi-est sanctions," than bring ignominy upon herself, all rights, sets at naught all the affections of the heart, and converts a being made in the image of

ers contend that in the absence of a prohibitory lan, many of its members and vast multitudes of their men, women, and children, as well as horses and sheep, may be held as property in any Territory of the United States; and this doctrine Mr. Clay himself nowhere denies. Nay, further, Mr. Calern ruffians and Northern doughfaces ere long be roaming through our bed rooms and ransacking our closets in search of prey. Should an atchanged by death or debts, for the hardened, remorseless taskmaster, and the law sanctions every villany perpetrated upon the slave † No. my dear sir, I cannot give my consent, and I hope it men and women who would willingly tenant them rather than peril their souls by betraying the fucurse a vast empire with such an institution, and to doom unborn millions to its unutterable abominations, even to save our Southern brethren from the sin and folly of founding a new Republic (!) upon the denial of human rights, and of render-ing themselves a bye-word, a proverb and a reproach among all the nations of the earth. I value the favor of my God, and the salvation of my soul, too much to take part or lot in such great wickedness. Most fully do I agree with Mr. Clay, that Congress has no more constitutional authority over slavery in the States, than in the Island of Cuba, and most fully do I agree with the admission in his speech, but not to be found in his resolutions, of the right of Congress to Hence, in my opinion, the refusal to exercise this right, even to preserve the Union would be a crime in the sight of God and man. I entertain no apprehension of the severance of the Union, for this cause; but should the few slaveholders. and the vast multitude of Southern people, who have no interest in slavery, in their madness sep-arate from us, upon them will rest the sin, and upon them and their children will fall its punish-

ment. Let us do what God commands, and leave

Yours, truly.

Yours, truly, William Jay.

*A late census in Kentucky reveals the fact, that the slaveholders in that State own, on an average, twenty-two slaves. Should this average be applied to the whole slave region, the number of masters, according to the census of 1840, cannot exceed 117,000!

† Our doughfoces are always complaining that their employers are slandered at the North. Let the employers speak for themselves. In Dev. Reports, (North Carolina,) p. 263, 1829, we find the case of The State vs. Mann. The defendant attempted to flog a woman shave whom he had hired; she refrested; he ordered her to come to him, but she continued to retreat; he selzed his gun, fred at and wounded her. For this he was indicted. The Conce Medita' he who hires a slave is, for the time being, invested that he who hires a slave is, for the time being, invested that he who hires a slave is, for the time being, invested with all the powers of the owner himself, to enforce obedience, and that the indictment could not be sustained. Said Judge Roffin, "The power of the unstate would be absolute, to render the submission of the slave perfect. I meat sincerely confers my sense of the harshness of this proposition. I feel it as deeply as any man can; and as a principle of moral right, cercy man in his retirement must repudied it. But in the actual state of things it must be somether is no remedy. This Discipline Bellows to Slavencher is no remedy. This Discipline Bellows to Slavencher is no remedy.

THE SLAVE QUESTION. SPEECH OF MR. WELLBORN, OF GEORGIA.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FRIDAY, FERRUARY 15, 1850, In Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, on the Resolution referring the President's Message

to the various Standing Committees. Mr. Wellborn said :

In rising, Mr. Chairman, to reply to the argu-ents of the honorable member from Indiana, [Mr. Fitch.] pronounced on yesterday, and the honorable member from Ohio, [Mr. Root.] who has just taken his seat, I must beg the special in-dulgence of the Committee. The circumstances in which I enter upon the weighty topics now en-gaging our most anxious deliberations, leave me little opportunity to observe that order in argument, and that accuracy of language most favorable to a correct comprehension of what I desire to submit to the notice of the Committee. however, Mr. Chairman, I shall succeed in dis-

the respect due to opposing opinions, and at the same time with the freedom and candor becoming their gravity, I shall be most happy.

The honorable member from Indiana [Mr. Fitch] expressed, in the course of his argument on yesterday, the opinion that the passage of the Ordinance of 1787 for the government of the Northwestern Territory, containing a clause prohibiting the introduction of slavery therein, was, in effect, the setting of a just precedent for its uniform exclusion from all subsequent territorial acquisitions of this Union. That proposition requires a review of a few of the historical circumstances in which that Ordinance came to be passed. It will be remembered by the Commit-Confederation. Now, Mr. Chairman, when the Articles of Confederation were adopted, the States which were parties to them held no other territory whatsoever than that which was embraced within their respective limits. They had no territory, I repeat, in the sen-e in which we apply that term to unapproprieted lands from time to time held in common by the United States. And if the honorable member who used that argument will take the trouble to look through hose Articles of Confederation, he will find no remark which can for a moment justify the idea that territorial acquisitions were anticipated by them. When, therefore, pending those Articles, territorial cessions to the States in common came to be made to the States separately, the Congress of the Confederation found itself without the state of things, not contemplated by the Articles of Confederation, had transpired. It was, Mr. Chairman, in these precise circumstances that the Congress of the Confederation, with very patriotic intentions, doubtless, but in a manner wholly irregular, enseted and put in operation over the Territory referred to by the honorable member, the Ordinance under notice.

Mr. Madison, in the 38th number of the Federalist, will be found, in commenting upon this course of conduct on the part of the Congress of the Confederation respecting that Territory, to have held the following language:

"Congress have assumed the administration of this stock. They have begun to render it productive. Congress have undertaken to do more; they have proceeded to form new States; to erect temporary Governments; to appoint officers for them; and to prescribe the condition on which such States shall be admitted into the Confederacy. All this has been done, and done without the least color of constitutional authority

been sounded." We thus perceive the anomalous nature of this procedure. The Ordinance, however, such as it was, had passed into execution before the present Federal Government was formed. Before passing from it, I ask attention to the last member of in it between the original States, whose Congress templated to be formed out of it.

" Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforeseid." Let us now, Mr. Chairman, proceed more im

mediately to the consideration of a few historical facts, shedding light on the relation the provisions facta, shedding light on the relation the provisions of the Constitution of the United States bear to the subject of slavery, and the probable intention of its framers touching the bearings of those provisions on the institution in the future. Did they contemplate, as the honorable member from Indiana insists, its exclusion from all territorial acquisitions following its adoption? What is the evidence on which the affirmative of this question rests? Is it to be found in the mere silence of the Constitution on the subject? To rest the proof of it on this, would be substantially to argue that

covered all the territory held in common by the States of this Union on their adoption of the Constitution. Now, I need not repeat to the committee the 3d clause of the 2d section of the 4th article of the Constitution, providing for the recovery of slaves flying from service in the States where they may be held to service into States where slavery is prohibited. By this clause it will be seen that all the protection which, in the existing condition of things, was practicable consistently with the grand idea of forming a Confederacy of States, was exerted in behalf-of the federacy of States, was exerted in behalf of the institution of slavery. The framers of our Government could not recall what had been done by a past government in the territory so often cited. They could not prohibit the States from adjustnent policy, a matter so strictly domestic in its nature as is slavery, without a manifest departure from the whole theory of the Union contemplated. Both in the States and Territory of the Union, however, it recognised property in the slave. Yet it is in these circumstances that the